

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /022 R

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R 152255Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2171

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 188285

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 188285 ACTION WELLINGTON CINCPAC

INFO CANBERRA SUVA PORT MORESBY USUN GENEVA DTD 08 AUG

QTE

S E C R E T STATE 188285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

REF: A. WELLINGTON 1946; B. STATE 132180

1. ON AUGUST 8 DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN GAVE NEW ZEALAND DCM ATKINS OUR COMMENTS ON NEW ZEALAND'S PROPOSED DRAFT UNGA RESOLUTION. ZURHELLEN BEGAN BY REVIEWING REASONS WE ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH IDEA OF SPNFZ, AS STATED IN PARAS FOUR AND FIVE OF REF B. IN ADDITION, HE SAID WE COULD NOT ACCEPT ESTABLISHMENT OF OBLIGATIONS IN THIS FIELD WHICH WOULD APPLY TO U.S. TERRITORY EXCEPT THROUGH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BY USG TO UNDERTAKE SUCH OBLIGATIONS.

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2. ZURHELLEN PREFACED SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH COMMENT THAT, AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE RESOLUTION NOT BE INTRODUCED. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE BLANKET ENDORSEMENT OF IDEA OF ESTABLISHING SPNFZ, AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED. OUR INFORMAL COMMENTS ON WORDING OF DRAFT RES WERE NOT MEANT TO IMPLY AN OFFER OF SUPPORT EVEN IF RESOLUTION WERE REVISED, SINCE WE HAVE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WITH WHOLE IDEA.

3. ZURHELLEN SAID WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT PHRASE "NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION" IN LAST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH BE DELETED, SINCE WE BELIEVE IT HAS VAGUE AND POTENTIALLY MISLEADING CONNOTATION. IF GONZ BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO RETAIN THIS TERM BECAUSE IT IS IN SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM COMMUNIQUE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT CLEARLY REFER ONLY TO ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING, PERHAPS BY ADDING PHRASE "BY ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING" AFTER TERM "NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION".

4. ZURHELLEN SUGGESTED THAT CHANGING FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TO READ "ENDORSES A STUDY OF THE IDEA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC" AND END OF THIRD OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TO READ "... LEND THEIR FULL COOPERATION TO THIS STUDY" WOULD IMPROVE CHANCES OF GAINING SUPPORT FOR DRAFT RES.

5. ATKINS SAID GONZ IS COMMITTED TO INTRODUCTION OF RES AT UNGA. HE SAID GONZ HAS GIVEN TEXT OF DRAFT RES TO GOVERNMENT OF FIJI, WHICH WILL CO-SPONSOR BUT HAS MADE NO COMMENTS ON TEXT. AUSTRALIA HAS SAID IT DOES NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON TEXT AS IT STANDS, BUT THAT GOA POSITION ON SPNFZ OTHERWISE UNCHANGED. KISSINGER UNQTE SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE188285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750283-1097
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750848/aaaabqaa.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 WELLINGTON 1946, 75 STATE 132180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, XP, US, UNGA
To: LONDON PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006